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THE HONORABLE DARRELL ISSA

Honoring James R. Paulsen, United States Navy

Friday, July 10, 2009

Madam Speaker, I rise today to join in celebrating the 90th birthday of James R. Paulson, a veteran of World War II, a philanthropist and a leader in business.

As a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy, James R. Paulson was the skipper of a Sub Chaser "SC671", conducting mine-sweeping operations in Alaska's treacherous seas along the Aleutian Islands from the North Pacific to Japan during WWII.

Jim met his beautiful wife Marijane Lewis in 1938 and they were married four years later, just days before he deployed to the North Pacific. Together they raised four wonderful children.

He received his undergraduate degree from University of Puget Sound, in WA. His career [Page: E1716] GPO's PDF as a Certified Public Accountant brought him much acclaim and he sat on the Board of Regents for 25 years at University of Puget Sound.

He was one of the founders of the Tacoma Foundation and was a major supporter of it.

He was a consultant and service provider with the Weyerhaeuser family, and headed a group of companies he brought together under the holding company name "Comerco." These companies included Alaska Fish Fertilizer, Olympic Stain, Dawson Insurance and 23 other companies. They merged with the Clorox Company and at that time Big Jim, as he is known by his friends, served on the board of directors of Clorox.

Not one to stand on the sidelines, Jim has been a lifelong public activist, working to protect the American way of life and the sacrifices that he and so many Americans have made to protect our freedom.

Jim stands as a testament to the American spirit. Born of immigrant parents from Norway, he made his own way in the world, and made significant contributions to his family and his country. From nothing, he built a corporate network providing high quality careers for thousands of employees and providing valuable services and products to the nation and the world.

We are fortunate to have James R. Paulson as a friend and fellow American.